FREE FREE

THE ACE DIARY 1990



PERSONAL DETAILS

Name ....

Address ....

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....

Tel. (Home) .... Tel. (Business) ....

BANK DETAILS

Name .... Branch ....

Sort Code .... Account No. ....

COMPUTER

Model .... CPU Serial No. ....

Monitor Serial No. .... Dealer details ....

Printer Model .... Printer Serial No. ....

VEHICLE

Registration No. .... Driving Licence No. ....

AA/RAC Membership No. ....

Insurance company ....

Tel. .... Policy No. ....

IN CASE OF ACCIDENT please notify

Name ....

Adresss ....

....

....

Tel. .... Relationship ....

JANUARY

Monday	1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	31
Thursday	4	11	18	25	
Friday	5	12	19	26	
Saturday	6	13	20	27	
Sunday	7	14	21	28	

FEBRUARY

Monday		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		7	14	21	28
Thursday	1	8	15	22	
Friday	2	9	16	23	
Saturday	3	10	17	24	
Sunday	4	11	18	25	

MARCH

Monday		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		7	14	21	28
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29
Friday	2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	3	10	17	24	31
Sunday	4	11	18	25	

APRIL

Monday		2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday		3	10	17	24	
Wednesday		4	11	18	25	
Thursday		5	12	19	26	
Friday		6	13	20	27	
Saturday		7	14	21	28	
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29	

MAY

Monday		7	14	21	28
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29
Wednesday	2	9	16	23	30
Thursday	3	10	17	24	31
Friday	4	11	18	25	
Saturday	5	12	19	26	
Sunday	6	13	20	27	

JUNE

Monday		4	11	18	25
Tuesday		5	12	19	26
Wednesday		6	13	20	27
Thursday		7	14	21	28
Friday	1	8	15	22	29
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30
Sunday	3	10	17	24	

JULY

Monday		2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday		3	10	17	24	31
Wednesday		4	11	18	25	
Thursday		5	12	19	26	
Friday		6	13	20	27	
Saturday		7	14	21	28	
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29	

AUGUST

Monday		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		7	14	21	28
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30
Friday	3	10	17	24	
Saturday	4	11	18	25	
Sunday	5	12	19	26	

SEPTEMBER

Monday		3	10	17	24
Tuesday		4	11	18	25
Wednesday		5	12	19	26
Thursday		6	13	20	27
Friday		7	14	21	28
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30

OCTOBER

Monday	1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	31
Thursday	4	11	18	25	
Friday	5	12	19	26	
Saturday	6	13	20	27	
Sunday	7	14	21	28	

NOVEMBER

Monday		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		7	14	21	28
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29
Friday	2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	3	10	17	24	
Sunday	4	11	18	25	

DECEMBER

Monday		3	10	17	24	31
Tuesday		4	11	18	25	
Wednesday		5	12	19	26	
Thursday		6	13	20	27	
Friday		7	14	21	28	
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	

Bank Holiday UK & Republic of Ireland. National Day, Haiti **Monday 1**

Bank Holiday Scotland **Tuesday 2**

Birthday of J.R.R. Tolkien, 1892 **Wednesday 3**

Fabulous February issue of ACE hits the shops **Thursday 4**

Friday 5

Festival of Epiphany. Commodore Vic 20 launched, at CES, 1981 **Saturday 6**

Sunday 7

8 Monday Birthdays of Elvis Presley (1935) and David Bowie (1947)

9 Tuesday

10 Wednesday Sinclair C5 launched, 1985

11 Thursday Birthday of Bryan Robson (1957)

12 Friday Sinclair QL launched, 1984

13 Saturday

14 Sunday

Martin Luther King Day, USA **Monday 15**

Tuesday 16

First breakfast TV broadcast, 1983 **Wednesday 17**

Thursday 18

Friday 19

Saturday 20

Sunday 21

22 Monday

23 Tuesday

24 Wednesday Apple Macintosh launched, 1984

25 Thursday Burns Night. Al Capone dies, 1947

26 Friday National Day, Australia. Republic Day, India

27 Saturday First public demonstration of television

28 Sunday

Monday 29

Tuesday 30

Soft Aid, first games compilation, released 1985 Wednesday 31

ACE's massive March issue hits the newsagents Thursday 1

Candlemas Day Friday 2

Saturday 3

Independence Commemoration Day, Sri Lanka Sunday 4

5 Monday

6 Tuesday Waitangi Day – National Day, New Zealand

7 Wednesday

8 Thursday Crufts Dog Show opens. James Dean born, 1931

9 Friday

10 Saturday

11 Sunday

Monday 12

Chuck Yeager born, 1923. Spectrum 128 launched, 1986 **Tuesday 13**

St. Valentine's Day **Wednesday 14**

Decimal currency introduced, 1971 **Thursday 15**

Friday 16

Saturday 17

Bobby Robson born, 1933. Independence Day, Gambia **Sunday 18**

19 Monday Washington-Lincoln Day, USA. First episode of East Enders, 1985

20 Tuesday

21 Wednesday

22 Thursday

23 Friday

24 Saturday

25 Sunday National Day, Kuwait

Monday 26

Shrove Tuesday **Tuesday 27**

Ash Wednesday **Wednesday 28**

ACE celebrates St. David's Day with a April issue **Thursday 1**

Friday 2

National Day, Morocco **Saturday 3**

Kenny Dalglish born, 1951 **Sunday 4**

5 Monday Sinclair ZX81 launched, 1981

6 Tuesday Ideal Home Exhibition opens. Independence Day, Ghana

7 Wednesday Ivan Lendl born, 1960

8 Thursday

9 Friday

10 Saturday

11 Sunday

Commonwealth Day **Monday 12**

Tuesday 13

Wednesday 14

First Australia v. England Test Match, 1871. (Australia won) **Thursday 15**

Friday 16

St. Patrick's Day – National Day, Republic of Ireland & N. Ireland **Saturday 17**

Sunday 18

19 Monday Bank Holiday Republic of Ireland & N. Ireland

20 Tuesday

21 Wednesday

22 Thursday William Shatner (Captain Kirk) born, 1931

23 Friday Pakistan Day

24 Saturday Alan Sugar's birthday

25 Sunday Mother's Day, UK. Elton John born, 1947

Leonard Nimoy (Mr. Spock) born, 1931 **Monday 26**

Tuesday 27

Ramadan begins. Neil Kinnock born, 1942 **Wednesday 28**

Thursday 29

Friday 30

Eiffel Tower completed, 1889 **Saturday 31**

April Fool's Day **Sunday 1**

2 Monday

3 Tuesday

4 Wednesday

5 Thursday Banish April showers with the magical May issue of ACE

6 Friday

7 Saturday Amstrad buy Sinclair name and products for £5 million, 1986

8 Sunday Palm Sunday

Monday 9

Passover, first day **Tuesday 10**

Wednesday 11

Maundy Thursday. Amstrad CPC launched, 1984 **Thursday 12**

Good Friday. Bank Holiday UK & Republic of Ireland **Friday 13**

Easter Saturday **Saturday 14**

Easter Day. McDonald's chain founded, 1955 **Sunday 15**

16 Monday Easter Monday. Bank Holiday England, Wales, N. Ireland & Republic of Ireland. Apple II launched, 1977

17 Tuesday Passover, last day. National Day, Syria

18 Wednesday

19 Thursday

20 Friday

21 Saturday Birthday of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. First £1 coins issued, 1983

22 Sunday

St. George's Day. Sinclair Spectrum launched, 1983 **Monday 23**

Tuesday 24

Wednesday 25

Thursday 26

Festival of St. Zita, patron saint of maidservants **Friday 27**

Jack Nicholson born, 1937 **Saturday 28**

Sunday 29

30 Monday Shavuot. Queen's Day, Netherlands

1 Tuesday

2 Wednesday

3 Thursday Spring into action with a flaming June issue of ACE

4 Friday Margaret Thatcher first elected Prime Minister, 1979

5 Saturday

6 Sunday Roger Bannister runs first sub-four minute mile, 1954

May Day Bank Holiday UK **Monday 7**

First production run of Coca-Cola, 1886 **Tuesday 8**

National Day, Czechoslovakia **Wednesday 9**

Thursday 10

Friday 11

FA Cup Final **Saturday 12**

Sunday 13

14 Monday Independence Day, Paraguay

15 Tuesday Festival of St. Dympna, patron saint of the insane

16 Wednesday

17 Thursday Constitution Day, Norway

18 Friday

19 Saturday

20 Sunday

Monday 21

Tuesday 22

Joan Collins born, 1933 **Wednesday 23**

Ascension Day. First Eurovision Song Contest, 1956 **Thursday 24**

Friday 25

Saturday 26

Sunday 27

28 Monday Spring Bank Holiday, UK

29 Tuesday Oak Apple Day. First ascent of Mt. Everest, 1953

30 Wednesday Jewish Pentecost

31 Thursday Republic Day, South Africa. Clint Eastwood born, 1930

1 Friday Victory Day, Tunisia. Marilyn Monroe born, 1926

2 Saturday Republic Day, Italy

3 Sunday Christian Pentecost

Bank Holiday, Republic of Ireland **Monday 4**

Constitution Day, Denmark **Tuesday 5**

National Day, Sweden **Wednesday 6**

Is anything hotter than the July issue of ACE? It's out today **Thursday 7**

Friday 8

Donald Duck's screen debut, 1934 **Saturday 9**

Trinity Sunday. National Day, Portugal **Sunday 10**

11 Monday

12 Tuesday Independence Day, Philippines. George Bush born, 1924

13 Wednesday

14 Thursday Steffi Graf born, 1969

15 Friday

16 Saturday Acorn Archimedes launched, 1987

17 Sunday Fathers' Day, UK. National Day, Iceland. Unity Day, West Germany

Monday 18

Tuesday 19

Wednesday 20

Longest day **Thursday 21**

Friday 22

Saturday 23

Sunday 24

25 Monday Wimbledon Tennis Championships begin

26 Tuesday

27 Wednesday

28 Thursday

29 Friday

30 Saturday Mike Tyson born, 1966

1 Sunday National Day, Canada. First regular colour TV programmes, 1967

Monday 2

Tuesday 3

Independence Day, USA **Wednesday 4**

Out today – the awesome August issue of ACE **Thursday 5**

Sylvester Stallone born, 1946 **Friday 6**

Saturday 7

Sunday 8

9 Monday National Day, Argentina

10 Tuesday

11 Wednesday National Day, Mongolia

12 Thursday Orangemen's Day – Bank Holiday, N. Ireland

13 Friday Harrison Ford born, 1942

14 Saturday National Days, France and Iraq

15 Sunday St. Swithun's Day

Monday 16

Tuesday 17

Nelson Mandela born, 1918 **Wednesday 18**

British Open Golf Championship begins **Thursday 19**

Independence Day, Colombia **Friday 20**

Neil Armstrong is the first man to walk on the moon, 1969 **Saturday 21**

National Day, Poland **Sunday 22**

23 Monday Revolution Day, Egypt

24 Tuesday Muslim New Year (1411)

25 Wednesday Commodore Amiga launched, 1985

26 Thursday Independence Day, Liberia

27 Friday

28 Saturday Independence Day, Peru

29 Sunday Spanish Armada defeated, 1588

Sir Clive Sinclair (1940) and Daley Thompson (1958) born **Monday 30**

Feast of Tish 'a B'av **Tuesday 31**

National Day, Switzerland **Wednesday 1**

September's ACE awaits you today. Get it! **Thursday 2**

Terry Wogan born, 1938 **Friday 3**

Saturday 4

Sunday 5

6 Monday Bank Holiday, Scotland & Republic of Ireland

7 Tuesday

8 Wednesday Nigel Mansell born, 1953. Great Train Robbery, 1963

9 Thursday

10 Friday Independence Day, Ecuador

11 Saturday

12 Sunday The 'glorious twelfth' – grouse shooting season opens. Edinburgh Festival begins

Monday 13

Tuesday 14

Wednesday 15

Madonna born, 1958 **Thursday 16**

National Day, Indonesia **Friday 17**

Saturday 18

Sunday 19

20 Monday Amstrad PCW 8256 launched, 1985

21 Tuesday

22 Wednesday Steve Davis born, 1957

23 Thursday

24 Friday

25 Saturday

26 Sunday

Summer Bank Holiday, England, Wales & N. Ireland **Monday 27**

Tuesday 28

Michael Jackson born, 1958 **Wednesday 29**

Thursday 30

National Day, Malaysia **Friday 31**

Saturday 1

Sunday 2

3 Monday Labor Day, USA & Canada

4 Tuesday

5 Wednesday

6 Thursday October ACE arrives today – look out for a full European Computer Entertainment Show preview

7 Friday Independence Day, Brazil

8 Saturday

9 Sunday

Monday 10

Tuesday 11

Wednesday 12

Thursday 13

Friday 14

European Computer Entertainment Show, Earls Court **Saturday 15**

European Computer Entertainment Show, Earls Court **Sunday 16**

17 Monday

18 Tuesday Peter Shilton born, 1949

19 Wednesday

20 Thursday Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year (5751)

21 Friday

22 Saturday

23 Sunday Bruce Springsteen born, 1949

Monday 24

Tuesday 25

Wednesday 26

Thursday 27

Friday 28

Yom Kippur – Jewish Day of Atonement Saturday 29

National Day, Botswana Sunday 30

1 Monday National Day, China

2 Tuesday

3 Wednesday

4 Thursday ACE November issue out today. Naughty – but nice

5 Friday Bob Geldof born, 1955

6 Saturday

7 Sunday

Columbus Day/Pioneers' Day, USA **Monday 8**

Independence Day, Uganda **Tuesday 9**

Wednesday 10

Thursday 11

Friday 12

Margaret Thatcher born, 1925 **Saturday 13**

Steve Cram born, 1960 **Sunday 14**

15 Monday

16 Tuesday

17 Wednesday

18 Thursday Martina Navratilova born, 1956

19 Friday

20 Saturday Ian Rush born, 1961

21 Sunday

Monday 22

Tuesday 23

United Nations Day **Wednesday 24**

Festival of St. Crispin **Thursday 25**

National Day, Austria **Friday 26**

Glen Hoddle born, 1957. First Blue Peter programme, 1958 **Saturday 27**

End of BST – clocks go back one hour (provisional) **Sunday 28**

29 Monday Bank Holiday, Republic of Ireland

30 Tuesday

31 Wednesday Hallowe'en

1 Thursday All Saints' Day. ACE December issue in the shops

2 Friday All Souls' Day

3 Saturday Festival of St. Martin de Porres, patron saint of racial justice

4 Sunday

Bonfire Night – discovery of Gunpowder Plot, 1605 **Monday 5**

Festival of St. Leonard, patron saint of prisoners **Tuesday 6**

Wednesday 7

Thursday 8

Friday 9

Saturday 10

Remembrance Sunday **Sunday 11**

12 Monday Veterans' Day, USA

13 Tuesday

14 Wednesday First record charts published, in New Musical Express 1952

15 Thursday

16 Friday

17 Saturday

18 Sunday

Monday 19

Tuesday 20

Wednesday 21

Thnaksgiving, USA. John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, 1963 **Thursday 22**

Friday 23

Ian Botham born, 1955 **Saturday 24**

Sunday 25

26 Monday

27 Tuesday

28 Wednesday

29 Thursday Republic Day, Yugoslavia

30 Friday St. Andrew's Day – National Day, Scotland

1 Saturday

2 Sunday First Sunday of Advent

Monday 3

Tuesday 4

National Day, Thailand Wednesday 5

Feast of St. Nicholas – celebrate with ACE's mega Christmas issue Thursday 6

National Day, Ivory Coast Friday 7

Saturday 8

John Lennon murdered, 1980 Sunday 9

10 Monday

11 Tuesday

12 Wednesday Hannukah

13 Thursday

14 Friday

15 Saturday

16 Sunday

Monday 17

Tuesday 18

Wednesday 19

Thursday 20

Friday 21

Shortest day. 70 mph speed limit introduced, 1965 Saturday 22

Sunday 23

24 Monday Christmas Eve

25 Tuesday Christmas Day. Bank Holiday UK & Republic of Ireland

26 Wednesday Boxing Day. Bank Holiday UK & Republic of Ireland

27 Thursday

28 Friday

29 Saturday

30 Sunday

New Year's Eve **Monday 31**

New Year's Day. Bank Holiday UK & Republic of Ireland **Tuesday 1 January 1991**

Bank Holiday in Scotland **Wednesday 2 January 1991**

Fantastic Feb 1991 issue of ACE hits the shops **Thursday 3 January 1991**

Friday 4 January 1991

Saturday 5 January 1991

Epiphany **Sunday 6 January 1991**

CODE MASTER

The American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) is one of the few bits of computer techno-porn worth sticking on your wall (or, in this case, in your pocket) and are helpful for both programming and (in particular) deciphering printer codes. ASCII novices can experiment in BASIC with the command PRINT CHR$(*ASCII code*). Attempting to print non-printing characters will have some unexpected effects. Try PRINT CHR$(7)...

CONTROL CODES 0-32

Decimal	Hex	Character
0	00	NUL (null)
1	01	SOH (start of heading)
2	02	STX (start of text)
3	03	ETX (end of text)
4	04	EOT (end of transmission)
5	05	ENQ (enquiry)
6	06	ACK (acknowledge)
7	07	BEL (bell)
8	08	BS (backspace)
9	09	HT (horizontal tabulation)
10	0A	LF (line feed)
11	0B	VT (vertical tabulation)
12	0C	FF (form feed)
13	0D	CR (carriage return)
14	0E	SO (shift out)
15	0F	SI (shift in)
16	10	DLE (data link escape)
17	11	DC (device control) 1
18	12	DC2
19	13	DC3
20	14	DC4
21	15	NAK (neg. acknowledge)
22	16	SYN (synchronous idle)
23	17	ETB (end transmit block)
24	18	CAN (cancel)
25	19	EM (end of medium)
26	1A	SUB (substitute)
27	1B	ESC (escape)
28	1C	FS (file separator)
29	1D	GS (group separator)
30	1E	RS (record separator)
31	1F	US (unit separator)

CODES 32-127 (PRINTING)

<table>
<tr><td>32</td><td>20</td><td>SP (space)</td></tr>
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</table>

30 ALL-TIME SOFTWARE GREATS

From the very latest in graphics and sound sophistication, to the classics of yesteryear – computer gaming's Hall of Fame. (And if you think this list could be improved, why not write your own and send it in to ACE?)

AIRBALL
Microdeal

Atari ST — *£24.95*

Type: Arcade adventure

ACE rating: Classic

Multi-coloured 3D exploration game which took the Ultimate *Knight Lore* style (see below) into new levels of graphic sophistication.

ATF
Digital Integration

C64, Spectrum — *£8.95 tape, £12.95 disk*

CPC — *£8.95 tape, £13.95 disk*

Type: Combat/flight simulator

ACE rating: 956 (issue 7)

Combines the DI hallmark of authenticity with some cracking dogfight action.

BALANCE OF POWER/BALANCE OF POWER 1990
Mindscape

Amiga, ST, PC, Macintosh — *£26.95*

Type: Strategy

ACE rating: original version, 950; 1990, 960 (issue 19)

Take control of one of the superpowers and strive to maintain a balance between military strength, economic stability, and influence over smaller nations. Absorbing game of geopolitics on a universal scale.

BOULDERDASH
Prism Leisure

Spectrum, C64, CPC — *£2.99 tape*

Type: Puzzle

ACE rating: Classic

Dated graphics but total playability as you dig away at the earth and boulders to release the gems. The original from a popular genre.

BUBBLE BOBBLE
Firebird

Spectrum — *£7.95 tape*

C64 — *£8.95 tape, £12.95 disk*

CPC — *£8.95 tape, £14.95 disk*

ST — *£19.95*

Type: Arcade

ACE rating: 958 (issue 1)

Maze and platforms game with over 100 screens. Sometimes errs a little on the twee side, but always retains its playability.

DIPLOMACY
Leisure Genius

C64 — *£12.95 tape, £14.95 disk*

PC — *£24.95*

Type: Strategy

ACE rating: 949 (issue 5)

Classic board game conversion with options for up to seven players and all the intense gameplay of the original.

DRILLER
Incentive

Spectrum, C64, CPC — *£14.95 tape, £17.95 disk*

PC — *£19.95*

Type: Arcade adventure

ACE rating: 962 (issue 8)

First of the 'Freescape' 3D adventures. Startlingly atmospheric and very playable.

DUNGEON MASTER
Mirrorsoft

ST — *£24.99*

Type: Arcade/RPG

ACE rating: 949 (issue 8)

Great blend of arcade and role-playing as you guide four characters through a network of

dungeons. Top-notch graphics help the atmosphere without slowing down the action.

ELITE
Firebird

BBC version: Superior
Spectrum, C64, CPC, ST, Amiga, BBC
(prices vary)
Type: Strategy
ACE rating: Classic

Five years old and still the best space trading game around. The vector graphics were way ahead of their time and still look good today.

F16 COMBAT PILOT
Digital Integration

PC
Type: Combat/flight simulator
ACE rating: 952 (issue 20)

Total simulation experience, plus dogfighting, as well as the standard missions. Fast and smooth with realistic action.

FALCON
Mirrorsoft

Type: Flight simulator
ACE rating: 939 (issue 9)

Hot rival to F16 above. Hang the expense and buy them both.

FLIGHT SIMULATOR II
Sub-Logic

ST, Amiga, PC £49.95
Type: Flight simulator
ACE rating: Classic

The great grandaddy of all flight sims; the first and some would say still the best.

HEAD OVER HEELS
Ocean

Spectrum £7.95 tape
C64 £8.95 tape, £12.95 disk
CPC £8.95 tape, £14.95 disk
MSX £8.95
PC £19.95
Type: Arcade adventure
ACE rating: Classic

3D exploration with two characters, over 300 locations, and very tricky puzzles.

HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
Infocom

C64, ST, PC, PCW *prices vary*
Type: Text adventure
ACE rating: Classic

One of the earlier Infocom releases and renowned for its particularly fiendish puzzles. Unfortunately now very difficult to obtain.

THE HOBBIT
Melbourne House

Most 8-bit; *now virtually unobtainable*
Type: Text and graphic adventure
ACE rating: Classic

Earns its place in Hall of Fame due to significance as first adventure with graphics and an attempt at an intelligent parser. Its puzzles generated debate which kept players occupied for several years, although the modern games player is not so tolerant of bugs and repetition as the original Hobbitophiles.

JEWELS OF DARKNESS
Level 9

Spectrum, C64, CPC, Amiga, ST, PC
all tapes £14.95, disks £19.95
Type: Text/graphic adventure compilation
ACE rating: Classic

Three of Level 9's earliest traditional adventures. Classic example of a genre which has now all but disappeared.

KICK OFF
Anco

C64 £9.95 tape, £14.95 disk
ST, Amiga £19.99
PC £24.95
Type: Soccer simulation
ACE rating: 821

Action-packed sim which is rapidly proving to have real staying power. Good graphics, fast and furious gameplay, fast taking over from *Match Day II* as the definitive soccer game.

KNIGHT LORE
Mastertronic

Spectrum, C64, Amstrad BBC £1.99
Type: Arcade adventure
ACE rating: Classic

The original isometric Ultimate 3D collect-and-explore game which spawned a host of imitators.

LORDS OF MIDNIGHT

Most 8-bit *now virtually unobtainable*
Type: Strategy
ACE rating: 950 (issue 3)

Five year old strategy wargame which broke new ground in gameplay and sheer size when released.

NEBULUS
Hewson

Spectrum £7.95 tape
C64 £8.95 tape, £12.95 disk
Type: Arcade/puzzle
ACE rating: 943 (issue 4)

Control your character to the top of a tower which incorporates spirals of platforms, lifts and ledges. Original gameplay and great graphics.

POPULOUS
Electronic Arts

ST, Amiga £24.95 disk
Type: Strategy
ACE rating: 963 (issue 19)

Game which puts you in control of a fully defined universe, attempting to improve the lot of your subjects and keeping a harmonious balance between all elements. Original scenario, absorbing gameplay, with excellent graphics and sound effects.

THE SENTINEL
Firebird

Spectrum, C64,CPC £9.95 tape,£14.95dk
ST, Amiga £19.99
Type: Strategy
ACE rating: 963

Unusual game whose 'plot' revolves around absorbing and repelling energy. Evocative graphics add to haunting atmosphere.

Requires fast reactions as well as a clear head.

SUMMER GAMES
Epyx/US Gold

Spectrum, C64, Amstrad BBC £1.99
PC *prices vary*
Type: Sports simulation
ACE rating: Classic

The original multi-sports sim which set the standard for others to follow. Epyx have managed to continue the same style successfully for four years.

TETRIS
Mirrorsoft

Spectrum, C64, CPC *budget prices*
ST, Amiga, PC £19.99
Type: Puzzle
ACE rating: 956 (issue 5)

Once of the most fiendishly clever and stunningly addictive computer games yet devised, despite its apparent simplicity of concept: arrange tumbling blocks of different shapes to form solid lines. There's a hypnotic soundtrack as well.

UNIVERSAL MILITARY SIMULATOR
Rainbird

ST, PC, Amiga £24.95
Macintosh £34.95
Type: Strategy
ACE rating: Classic

The ultimate program for the computer wargamer. Play out conflicts on user-definable terrain. Accessory programs available and USM version 2 is due for release some time in 1990.

URIDIUM
Hewson

Spectrum, C64,BBC prices vary
Type: Arcade
ACE rating: Classic

Perhaps the definitive 8-bit shoot 'em up. Super smooth scrolling and great graphics. Uridium was in a class of its own when it was released – and it's still looking pretty good.

WAY OF THE EXPLODING FIST

Melbourne House

Spectrum, C64, CPC

Type: Arcade

ACE rating: Classic

Earns its inclusion here for its impact when initially released and the extensive genre of martial arts games it popularised. Always playable, with authentic grunt'n'groan sound effects, but now looks long in the tooth.

WORLD CLASS LEADERBOARD

Access/US Gold

Spectrum £8.99

C64, CPC £9.99tape, £14.99 disk

ST, Amiga £19.99

Type: Golf simulation

ACE rating: Classic

One of the first golf sims and still ahead of the rest for playability and crisp clear graphics. WCL is based on real courses; the original Leaderboard is now available at budget prices.

XENON II: MEGABLAST

Imageworks

ST, Amiga £24.99

Type: Arcade

ACE rating: 910 (issue 25)

Vertically scrolling shoot 'em up with large detailed graphics and smooth movement throughout. Intensively hyped for months prior to release but lived up to (most of) the pre-release publicity.

ZARCH/VIRUS

Superior (Zarch)

Firebird (Virus)

Archimedes, ST, Amiga £19.95

Type: Arcade

ACE rating: 981 (issue 11)

So far this is ACE's highest rated game of the 1980s. Solid 3D graphics of a crispness rarely seen anywhere else outside demos, with smooth, fast movement and addictive action.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

If you're having trouble getting hold of any of the games in the list here are phone numbers for the software houses concerned. Some games may prove more difficult to get hold of; if phoning round local retailers and mail order suppliers doesn't get you anywhere, then try placing a Wanted ad in ACE's Pink Pages.

Anco	0322 92513
Digital Integration	0276 684959
Electronic Arts	0753 49442
Firebird	0666 504236
Hewson	0235 832939
Imageworks	01-928 1454
Incentive	07356 77289
Infocom	0734 311666
Leisure Genius	01-727 8070
Level 9	0934 814450
Mastertronic	01-377 6880
Melbourne House	01-727 8070
Microdeal	0726 68020
Mindscape	0444 86545
Mirrorsoft	01-928 1454
Ocean	061-832 6633
Prism Leisure	01-804 8100
Rainbird	0666 504326
Superior	0532 459453
US Gold	021-356 3388

GAME	LEVEL	SCORE	DATE	NOTES

COMPUTER REPAIRS

Computer packed up with a new game just waiting to get played? Warranty expired long ago? Fear not – many independent companies will repair micros. Terms and prices vary widely – and, of course, it may not even be worth repairing the machine – so always phone or write for details before sending your computer off.

AMC Unit 4, Weston Road Industrial Estate, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0HA. Tel. 0789 292269
Most makes of home computer.
ELECTRONIC SERVICES 176 Victoria Road West, Clevelys, Blackpool, FY5 3NE. Tel. 0253 822708
Most makes of home and business computers.
ISENSTEIN COMPUTER SYSTEMS, Unit W11, Chester Enterprise Centre, Hoole Bridge, Chester CH2 3NE Tel. 0244 822768
Amstrad PCW only
SHIELD COMPUTER SERVICES 50 Flixton Road, Urmston, Manchester, M1 3AB. Tel. 061-747 3185
Most makes of home computer.
SUREDATA Unit 6, Stanley House, Stanley Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 4JB. Tel. 01-902 5218
VIDEO VAULT Old Kingsmoor School, Railway Street, Hadfield, Cheshire, SK14 8AA. Tel. 04574 66555
Spectrum and Commodore 64.
VSE TECHNICAL SERVICES Unit 6, 8 Nursery Road, London SW9 8BP. Tel. 01-737 0234
8-bit machines only.
WTS ELECTRONICS Studio Master House, Chaulend Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU4 8EZ. Tel. 0582 491949
Spectrum, Commodore 64, BBC

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

ACE	01-251 6222	**FAST (Federation Against Software Theft)**	01-240 6756
Acorn Computer	0223 245200	**IBM PC User Group**	01-836 1191
Amstrad	0222 228888	**ICPUG (Independent Commodore Products User Group)**	01-579 1229
Apple UK	0442 60244	**PC Independent User Group**	0732 771512
Association of Atari User Groups	0603 661149		
Atari UK	0753 33344		
Commodore UK	0628 770088		

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